

PHILBY'S OWN STORY

'Do It Again Tomorrow,' Communist Spy Says

MOSCOW (UPI)—Harold (Kim) Philby, the British double agent who served the Kremlin as a spy in London and Washington for 30 years, broke long months of silence Tuesday night.

In an interview that ended early Wednesday morning, Philby said he had no regrets over his defection and loyalty to Russia.

Philby, 55, said the Depression and the split in British socialism in the 1930s led him to devote his life to "a fight for communism."

"That's why I did it," Philby said. "I would do it again tomorrow."

1963 Security Scandal

Philby arrived in the Soviet Union in 1963, touching off a security scandal that rocked British intelligence. He had been a respected member of MI6—the British secret intelligence service—and had penetrated every level of the British and American intelligence networks over the years as an undercover agent for the Kremlin.

The Cambridge-educated Briton now holds an important post in the Soviet intelligence service in Moscow.

'Never Happier'

He told his story Tuesday night in the first interview he has granted to Western correspondents since January, 1963, when he disappeared from Beirut, Lebanon, where he

was working as a newspaper correspondent, and turned up in Moscow.

Philby said he was "never happier, certainly never healthier," and added:

"I do miss the casual access to my children, although in fact I think I see as much of them as I would have had I remained a foreign correspondent."

His 24-year-old son recently visited him in Moscow.

Philby was a correspondent in Beirut for the London Observer in 1963 when he learned the British government had evidence identifying him as the "third man" in the 1951 defection to Russia by Donald MacLean and Guy Burgess—two other British intelligence agents.

Interviewed in a Moscow hotel, Philby refused to talk about his reported marriage to MacLean's former wife, Melinda. She and Philby were seen together at a Moscow Concert last week.

Philby said he is living in a large and comfortable apartment supplied by a grateful Kremlin. He appeared well and was dressed neatly.

"I was a perfectly genuine socialist up to 1931," Philby said. "But after that I became disaffected with British politics and set out on another fateful course."

The basic event, he said, was the "dis-

astrous split" of the British Socialist Party under Prime Minister Ramsey MacDonald in 1931.

"I can't say that my conversion (to communism) happened at any fixed point in time," he said. "I had two pretty hard years, from 1931 to 1933."

"But I do know that after those two years of painful thought, I had made up my mind by June, 1933. I was already a Communist."

"The background of my thinking was the economic crisis (the Depression) and massive unemployment in the capitalist world, and the apparent helplessness of existing forces to deal with it."

"It was a dismal picture and it was the working man who was the sufferer. The dilemma of the working class people was frightful."

"I myself took part in demonstrations of workers, but it became clear to me that more drastic remedies were needed—remedied outside the framework of conventional bourgeois thinking."

One Point Contradicted

In his description of his road to communism, Philby contradicted one point reported by British newspapers.

The version published in London was that Philby became a Communist in Vienna in 1934 after watching a workers demonstration,

and was then recruited as a Russian agent.

Philby said Tuesday he was a Communist by June, 1933, and soon after became an agent.



HAROLD (KIM) PHILBY